

Patent Application No. 09/670,489

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2004. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the present Application. In the Office Action, the specification and drawings were objected to, claims 1-4 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 USC §112, and claims 1, 4, 6-8, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC §103. In addition, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 were indicated as allowable. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are cancelled, and claims 2, 4, 9 and 11-13 are amended. Currently pending claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 9-13 are believed allowable, with claims 2, 9, 12 and 13 being independent claims.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The amendment to the specification removes the typographical error pointed out by the Examiner in the Office Action. See Office Action, page 2, paragraph 5. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Fig. 2 is presented herewith for the Examiner's review and approval. In the new figure, box 13 is relabeled "Compressor" to correct a typographical error pointed out by the Examiner in the Office Action. See Office Action, page 2, paragraph 6. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,330,574 to Murashita. See Office Action, page 5, paragraph 11. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are canceled and their rejections are therefore considered moot. In addition, claims 4, 6, 7 and 11-13 recite, either independently or by reference, subject matter indicated as allowable, as discussed below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any

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intervening claims. See Office Action, page 8, paragraph 12. By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended to recite all the limitations of claim 1, except for the limitation "and for encoding the compressed contents", which was objected to by the Examiner. See Office Action, page 3, paragraph 8. Furthermore, amendment to claim 2 is not made for reasons of patentability since claim 2 merely makes explicit what was previously incorporated by reference to claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 2 is believed allowable.

Claim 3 is dependent on and further limits claim 2. Since claim 2 is believed allowable, claim 3 is also believed allowable.

Claim 4 is amended to depend on and further limit claim 2. Since claim 2 is believed allowable, claim 4 are also believed allowable.

Claim 6 is amended to include the limitations indicated as allowable of claim 2. No new matter is introduced by this amendment and support for the amendment can be found at least at claim 2. Since claim 6 recites subject matter indicated as allowable, it is therefore believed allowable.

Claim 7 is dependent on and further limits claim 6. Since claim 6 is believed allowable, claim 7 is also believed allowable.

Claim 9 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. See Office Action, page 8, paragraph 12. By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended to recite all the limitations of claim 8, except for the limitation "and encoding the compressed contents", which was objected to by the Examiner. See Office Action, page 3, paragraph 8. Furthermore, amendment to claim 9 is not made for reasons of patentability since claim 9 merely makes explicit what was previously incorporated by reference to claim 8. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 9 is believed allowable.

Claim 10 is dependent on and further limits claim 9. Since claim 9 is believed allowable, claim 10 is also believed allowable.

Claim 11 is amended to depend on and further limit claim 9. Since claim 9 is believed allowable, claim 11 are also believed allowable.

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Claims 12 and 13 are amended to include the limitations indicated as allowable of claim 2. No new matter is introduced by these amendments and support for the amendments can be found at least at claim 2. Since claims 12 and 13 claim subject matter indicated as allowable, they are therefore believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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